CREATE BUILD-IT-YOURSELF FLOTTING STRUCTURES WITH STYROFOAM™ BRAND BUOYANCY BILLETS

These instructions describe the materials needed and guidelines for building floating docks, rafts and boat wells/docks with STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets.

Extremely buoyant and durable, the billet material is composed of millions of tiny non-interconnecting air cells – each serving as an independent buoyancy chamber. These billets won’t lose their buoyancy, even if punctured. It takes only 1 cubic foot (0.03 cubic meter) of STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets to float 55 pounds (25 kilograms).

Lightweight, the billets are easy to install. And they stay on the job year after year under normal conditions. They resist the attack of destructive marine growths, are unaffected by salt or fresh water, won’t become waterlogged and won’t corrode.

MATERIALS CHECKLIST

- Handsaw
- Framing square
- Handheld drill
- Hammer
- Wrench
- Carry bolts/washers/nuts (see Table 1)
- Treated wood* (see Table 1)
- Nails (see Table 1)
- Scrap of 1/2" (13 mm) plywood

PLANS FOR A FLOATING DOCK

These instructions describe the materials needed and guidelines for building a 6’ x 10’ (1.8 m x 3 m) floating dock. Additional sections can be made to increase the length of the dock. The materials needed for one section are shown in Table 1. The plans for the floating dock are shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1: Floating Dock Plan](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1: MATERIALS FOR DOCK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deck Braces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deck Braces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deck Sides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deck Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skirts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Ties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Carriage Bolts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Carriage Bolts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Washers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Use treated wood (or wood naturally resistant to decay/insect attack). Wood should be clean, dry and free from oil residue.
CONSTRUCTION STEPS
1. Following the illustrations, create the framework shown in Figure 2. With the frame structure upside down, nail on the three cross ties and the four skirt boards.
2. Consulting Figure 3, lay the STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets across the cross ties. Place skids on the foam as shown. To connect the foam, drill six holes through the skids, foam, and the cross ties. Insert the long bolts and reach under the cross ties to apply washers and nuts.
3. Turn the structure over and tighten the nuts to a snug fit.
4. Install lengthwise brace. Then install cross bracing.
5. Nail on deck boards using a piece of 1/2” (13 mm) plywood to space boards 1/2” apart (Figure 4).

REPLACING EXISTING DRUMS
Easily replace drums on a boat well/wharf with buoyancy billets while the floating structure is still in the water. The rocking that is usually experienced in drum-floated structures is greatly reduced by using STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets.

DRUM REPLACEMENT STEPS
1. Replace small sections one at a time. Sink and remove only two side-by-side drums at a time.
2. Build a crib from lumber – 2” x 8” (5 x 20 cm) boards are suggested. Fasten the crib to the STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billet. Cross members should be longer than the wharf is wide.
3. Tilt crib and push under wharf using the 2” x 8” boards as handles.
4. Center under the wharf. Secure with 16 pennyweight (16d) nails. Saw off protruding 2” x 8” handles.

PRODUCT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Cubic Feet (Cubic Meters)</th>
<th>Approximate Weight, lbs (kg)</th>
<th>Approximate Buoyancy, lbs (kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billet Size, inch (cm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 x 20 x 96 (18 x 51 x 244)</td>
<td>7.7 (0.22)</td>
<td>14 (6.4)</td>
<td>425 (192.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 x 20 x 96 (25 x 51 x 244)</td>
<td>11.1 (0.31)</td>
<td>20 (9.1)</td>
<td>610 (276.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 x 20 x 108(1)</td>
<td>8.6 (0.24)</td>
<td>16 (7.3)</td>
<td>480 (217.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 x 20 x 108(1)</td>
<td>12.5 (0.35)</td>
<td>23 (10.4)</td>
<td>690 (313.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 x 24 x 96(1)</td>
<td>13.3 (0.38)</td>
<td>24 (10.9)</td>
<td>730 (331.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum Size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-gallon (208-liter), 18-gauge</td>
<td>7.8 (0.22)</td>
<td>48.5 (22.0)</td>
<td>440 (199.6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Available in the U.S. only

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PLANS FOR A SWIMMING RAFT
These instructions describe the materials needed and guidelines for building an 8' x 12' (2.4 m x 3.7 m) swimming raft. The materials needed are shown in Table 3. The plans for the raft are shown in Figure 5.

CONSTRUCTION STEPS
1. Following the illustrations, create the framework shown in Figure 6. With the frame structure upside down, nail on the four cross ties and the four skirt boards.
2. Cut the three STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets in half for the six shorter pieces shown in Figure 7.
3. Consulting Figure 7, lay the sections of the STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets across the cross ties. Place skids on the foam as shown. To connect the foam, drill six holes through the skids, foam and the cross ties. Insert the long bolts and reach under the cross ties to apply washers and nuts.
4. Turn the structure over and tighten the nuts to a snug fit.
5. Install lengthwise bracing first, then install cross bracing.
6. Consulting Figure 4, nail on deck boards using a piece of 1/2" (13 mm) plywood to space boards 1/2" apart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3: MATERIALS FOR SWIMMING RAFT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deck Braces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deck Braces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Ties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Carriage Bolts with Nuts (or threaded rod cut to required length)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Carriage Bolts with Nuts (or threaded rod cut to required length)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Nails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Washers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HOW TO SECURE FLOATING DOCKS AND RAFTS

DOCK TO SEAWALL FOR TIDAL VARIATION

- Bolt through pipe into sea wall
- Guide plate bolted to float (loose fit on pipe)

DOCK TO DOCK

- Loose-fitting steel rod
- Galvanized eye bolts
- Washer and cotter pin
- Galvanized washers at both ends of eye bolts

DOCK TO PILING FOR TIDAL VARIATION

- Bolt
- Lt anchor chain
- Bolt for retaining pipe nipples
- Piling
- Pipe nipples (free fit on chain)

RAFT TO BOTTOM

- Use weighted sentinel if necessary for added holding
- Chain bridle
- Single chain

DOCK TO SHORELINE

- Cable stays to pipe stakes
- Welded pipe frame
- Pivot bracket
- Pipe frame
- Cable
- 1/2” Section 8” Pipe
- Pipe driven deep

PRECAUTIONS

STYROFOAM™ Brand Buoyancy Billets are sold for use in marine applications only. Billets are combustible. Protect from high heat sources. Care should be taken not to expose material to open flame or other ignition sources. For more information, consult MSDS, call Dow at 1-866-583-BLUE (2583) or contact your local building inspector. In an emergency, call 1-989-636-4400 in the U.S. or 1-519-339-3711 in Canada.

The foam is subject to attack by some chemicals, including concentrated quantities of gasoline and oil. If this, or pollution by industrial waste is suspected, reaction of the foam should be checked prior to construction. In case of extreme pollution, additional protection – such as solvent-free epoxy coatings – may be required. Compatibility of the coating to the billet should be checked prior to applying the coating.

Skirt boards will protect foam from mechanical damage and degradation from ultraviolet light.

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